

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** The Value of Routine Histopathological Examination of Appendicectomy Specimens

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 5 April 2007

**Reviewer:** Massimo Chiarugi

### Reviewer's report:

General

This is a generally well-written paper, supporting the need to perform routinely microscopic examination of apparently normal appendices removed at surgery. Although from medical literature many authors believe routine pathological examination unnecessary in such cases (as the authors correctly cite) , it is my opinion that actually, in most of Institutions, microscopic examination of every surgical specimen is almost a rule. This may limit the field of interest of the manuscript.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1)Result section, V paragraph: authors mention five cases of carcinoids not completely resected. Two of these were underwent subesequent right hemicolectomy because their size. The other 3 were less than 1 cm. Authors should explain why they believe these latter were not completely resected and accordingly, why they reserved surgery to one of these and just watchful follow-up to the two others. Also, it would help to know if any residual and/or spread of the tumor were found after secondary surgery;

2) Result section, VI paragraph: Authors do not mention whether any residual/spread of appendiceal adenocarcinoma was microscopically found in the specimen after right hemicolectomy. Authors are encouraged to clarify this point.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1) Result section, I paragraph, line 7: please change Schistotoma into Schistosoma;

2)I would encourage the Authors to add a Conclusions section with a few sentences;

3) Table: the format of the table is somewhat misleading, because the terms Endometriosis and Crohn's disease appear as headlines under the Parasites group. Just use bold character and a proper alignemet.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests